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PRESS RELEASE

COMMISSIONER GEORGE P. BUSH ANNOUNCES VOICE OF VETERANS LESSON PLANS FOR TEXAS SCHOOL TEACHERS

Texas Land Commissioner encourages students to write about their communities' unique history

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 09, 2020

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Today, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced that the first in a series of Voices of Veterans Oral History lesson plans is now available for Texas teachers. The General Land Office's Oral History program seeks to share and record the stories of Texas Veterans through their time in service for future researchers, historians, genealogists, and the general public. Veteran interviews are permanently archived in the Office of Veterans Records at the Texas General Land Office, where they join the historic documents of other Texas heroes such as Sam Houston, Davey Crockett, Jim Bowie and William Barret Travis.

The Voices of Veterans lesson plans provide an accessible and engaging way for Texas students to learn about United States military history, told by Texas Veterans themselves. Students will gain a better understanding of the contributions of our Veterans and what it was like to serve in armed conflict through primary sources already collected by the General Land Office. With the 75th anniversary of World War II this year, the series begins with an oral history of Millie Dalrymple, a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots. Additional lesson plans for each conflict will be released throughout the year.

The lessons comply with seventh and ninth grade TEKS. Complete with activity worksheets, audio excerpts, reflection questions, and recommended books, these lesson plans take the historical interviews off the archive shelves and brings them to life in Texas schools.

"No generation of Texas students should grow up without a deep understanding and respect for our state's Veterans and the sacrifices they have made throughout our history," said Commissioner George P. Bush. "The Land Office Voices of Veterans lesson plans serve to educate students on everything from crucial military divisions,

such as the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), to the experiences and significance of those who gave their lives on the battlefield. As a former teacher, I hope our young Texans are inspired by the courage and commitment of our Texas Veterans."

Lesson plans can be accessed on the Texas General Land Office's <u>Teacher Resources</u> page or the Voices of Veterans <u>website</u>.

You can follow Voices of Veterans on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. Follow the Texas General Land Office on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.